Guide to the Microfilm

of the

SPANISH ARCHIVES OF NEW MEXICO
1621-1821

A Microfilm Project

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State of New Mexico Records Center

Santa Fe, New Mexico

A
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Guide to the Microfilm

of the

SPANISH ARCHIVES OF NEW MEXICO 1621-1821

in the

Archives Division

of the

State of New Mexico Records Center

22 Rolls

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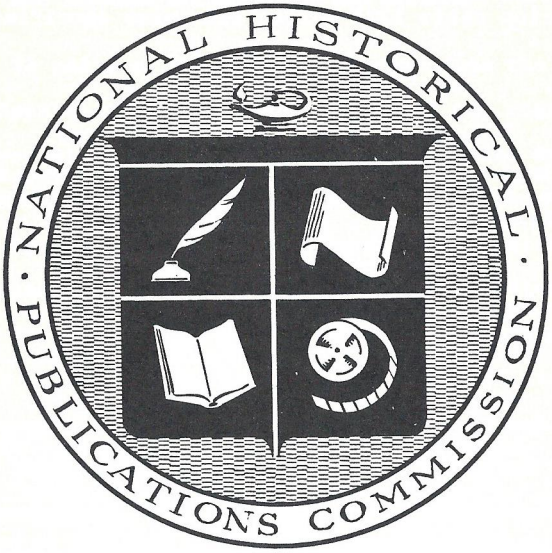

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Myra Ellen Jenkins

THE SPANISH ARCHIVES OF NEW MEXICO

The 22 rolls of this microfilm reproduce the extant official Spanish archives of New Mexico in the custody of the Archives Division of the State of New Mexico Records Center concerning the administration of the region from the period of Spanish colonial sovereignty to the establishment of the Mexican national government in 1821. Included also are items in the custody of the Zimmerman Library of the University of New Mexico. Excluded are the official land grant documents transferred to the Surveyor-General for New Mexico in 1854, which are still in the custody of the Bureau of Land Management regional office of the Department of the Interior and housed in the Federal Building in Santa Fe. These documents were microfilmed by the University of New Mexico in 1955. Excluded also are land conveyances in special collections of the Archives Division which are of a basically private nature, as well as other private papers in special collections.

SPANISH ADMINISTRATION OF NEW MEXICO

More than half a century elapsed between the entrada of the first Spanish explorers into New Mexico and effective settlement of the northern outpost of the Viceroyalty of New Spain. In 1539, the advance group of the Fray Marcos de Niza expedition reached the Zuñi village of Hawikuh, but turned back when the leader, Estévan, was killed. In 1540,

Francisco Vásquez de Coronado, Governor of Nueva Galicia, led his ill-fated expedition from Compostela to Hawikuh, thence to the Rio Grande and eastward into the Kansas plains, but was forced to abandon the region in 1541. In 1581, the Rodríguez-Chamuscado expedition came up the Rio Grande, explored from Zuñi to the buffalo plains east of the Pecos River, and returned. In 1582, Antonio de Espejo and Fray Bernardino Beltrán came in search of the priests left behind the previous year, and returned by way of the Pecos River. Gaspar Castaño de Sosa led an expedition of settlers up the Pecos into the Rio Grande Valley in 1590, but was recalled to Mexico; the unauthorized Bonilla-Humaña expedition of 1593 was massacred.

New Mexico came under the administration of the Viceroyalty of New Spain with effective colonization of the region by Juan de Oñate, who established headquarters near San Juan Pueblo in 1598. His successor, Pedro de Peralta, acting under viceregal instructions of August 30, 1609, established the Villa of Santa Fe in 1610, which was to remain the capital of New Mexico until the present date. With settled occupation came all the administrative machinery of Spanish imperial bureaucracy, although modified to some extent by frontier conditions. The governor was responsible directly to the viceroy until the establishment of the Provincias Internas in 1776, and he appointed or

approved the lesser officials. He was obligated to carry out the instructions and policies of the viceroy and to enforce all the numerous royal cédulas and decrees. He was head of the presidial troops; he could order the formation of militia from the settlements; he made the land grants. Municipal government, especially that of the Villa of Santa Fe was left largely to the cabildo. For greater administrative control, two additional villas were created: Santa Cruz de la Cañada in 1695, to administer the northern jurisdiction; and Albuquerque in 1706, to administer the region south of Santa Fe known as the Rio Abajo. At the end of his term, each governor had to undergo a complete inspection of all his official actions, known as the residencia.

New Mexico was affected by the comprehensive administrative reorganization attempted by the Spanish Crown during the half century before Mexican independence in 1821. Due to the serious problem of frontier defense, a royal order of August 22, 1776, established the Provincias Internas, composed of the northern provinces of New Mexico, Nueva Vizcaya, Coahuila, Texas, Sinaloa, Sonora and the Californias. The new jurisdiction was separated from the viceroyalty and placed under the direct control of the comandante general, with headquarters at Arispe, Sonora. Until after independence, the comandante general exercised

military control, but delegated most civil functions in New Mexico to the governor. Viceregal authority was resumed by Bernardo de Gálvez, 1785-1786, but after his death, the Provincias Internas were separated into two comandancias in December, 1786. New Mexico, together with the Californias, Sonora and Nueva Vizcaya, became the western division. By royal order of November 23, 1792, the Californias were again placed directly under the viceroy and comandancia headquarters were officially established at Chihuahua.

Much of the attempted administrative reform in Mexico was checked during the reign of Charles IV, especially after the recall of capable Viceroy Revilla Gigedo in 1794 and the succeeding events of the Napoleonic wars. In 1808, Charles IV abdicated in favor of his son Ferdinand VII. Both were imprisoned in France and Joseph Bonaparte installed as King of Spain, but opposition continued. The Junta Central was organized first at Aranjuez in 1808, then moved to Seville and finally forced to the Isle of León in 1809. On January 29, 1810, the Junta Central resigned after creating a five-member Council of Regency to carry on the government in the name of Ferdinand VII. The Council of Regency convoked the old representative Cortes which began its deliberations September 24, 1810. The occupation caused the rise of two factions in the

viceroyalty of New Spain. The Audiencia of Mexico supported the Junta Central; the ayuntamiento of Mexico City and the provincial cities promoted a Mexican national junta, which was recognized by Viceroy Iturrigaray in August, 1808. On September 15, however, Iturrigaray was removed by the supporters of the Junta Central, and replaced first by Pedro de Garibay, then by Archbishop Francisco Xavier de Lizana, who was, in turn, replaced by Francisco Xavier Venegas, sent by the Council of Regency in September, 1810. The Cortes promulgated a constitutional form of government for both Spain and the empire, March 18, 1812, and on September 28, Viceroy Venegas ordered the constitution put into effect, but suspended it on December 6. In February, 1813, the Council of Regency replaced Venegas with General Felix María Calleja, who again promulgated the constitution. Meanwhile, the abortive Hidalgo-Morelos revolution for complete independence further compounded the administrative chaos within the viceroyalty. Ferdinand VII abrogated the constitution soon after his restoration in 1814, but was forced to restore it in 1820. The proclamation of the constitution in Mexico by Viceroy Apodaca on May 3, 1820 sparked the successful war of Mexican independence which resulted in the Treaty of Córdova, August 24, 1821.

Throughout these chaotic latter years of Spanish

rule, the governors of New Mexico, far removed from the events within the interior of the viceroyalty, continued to cope with local problems, often unaware that one change in government had taken place before another had occurred. They published the orders and decrees of the various Spanish governments and the instructions of the viceroy in charge at the time, submitted through the comandante general, even though such orders, decrees and instructions were often obsolete before they had arrived in Santa Fe. The revolution of 1810-1815 made little impact on the northern frontier, although New Mexico did send a delegate, Pedro Bautista Pino, to the Cortes.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SPANISH ARCHIVES OF NEW MEXICO

Documents for the period of exploration and early settlement did not remain in New Mexico and are to be found in other depositories. With effective settlement, especially after the establishment of the Villa of Santa Fe as the capital in 1610, the governors were responsible for the maintenance of the official archives, in accordance with Spanish administrative regulation and practice. Instructions were constantly being sent from viceregal headquarters in Mexico City, or from the comandante general; the requisite reports were also constantly being sent to Mexico by the governor with a copy retained in the

governor's archives; instructions were sent by the governor to the chief local officials, the alcaldes mayores or alcaldes ordinarios, and reports received from these officials; reports and service records were maintained for the Presidial Company of Santa Fe; censuses were periodically prepared; minutes and petitions of the cabildo of Santa Fe were filed; probate records concerning settlement of estates and protection of widows and minors were maintained; transcripts of the litigation procedure in civil and criminal suits were kept. Land titles and conveyances were registered in Santa Fe, particularly the lengthy proceedings in the granting of land to community and individual petitioners, since land grants in New Mexico were made by the governor and not by the viceroy.

The earliest record in the Spanish Archives of New Mexico consists of the instructions given by the Audiencia of Mexico January 9, 1621, to Estéban Perea of the Franciscan Order, to whom the conversion of New Mexico was entrusted. Only this document and two others, military commissions dated December 15, 1636, and January, 1664, survived the great Pueblo Revolt of 1680 which drove the Spaniards out of New Mexico for twelve years. The Indians destroyed the archives which they considered symbols of the aggressor.

After his retreat, Governor Antonio de Otermín established headquarters at El Paso del Norte (Juárez)

across the Rio Grande. There, he and his successors maintained the records of the government-in-exile and kept journals of events including their unsuccessful attempts at reconquest. In 1692, governor Diego de Vargas made a peaceful military entry into New Mexico and in 1693 led the settlers back to Santa Fe to reestablish Spanish control.

The number of documents maintained in the Santa Fe archives expanded progressively during the years following reoccupation. An increase was particularly discernible after the creation of the Provincias Internas in 1776 when administrative procedures were tightened, and continued with the volume of correspondence and instructions which resulted from the upheaval in Mexican government during the Napoleonic period.

When Brigadier-General Stephen Watts Kearny took possession of Santa Fe on August 18, 1846, the Spanish archives, together with those of the Mexican sovereignty, were in the custody of Juan Bautista Vigil y Alarid, Secretary of Government to Manuel Armijo, the last of the Mexican governors. Vigil y Alarid officially turned over the Palace of the Governors to Kearny, since Armijo had fled, and on September 22, Donaciano Vigil, also a former secretary to Armijo, was appointed Secretary of the Territory by Kearny and took the documents into his custody.

With the assassination of Governor Charles Bent in January, 1847, Vigil became acting governor until 1848, then continued as territorial secretary until 1851. He also was "Recorder of Titles," and began the systematic registry of land grant titles and conveyances. With the creation of the office of Surveyor-General in 1854, and the appointment of William Pelham as Surveyor-General of New Mexico, some 1,715 land title documents were segregated from the other archives still housed in the governor's office at the Palace and placed in the custody of the Surveyor-General, General Land Office of the Department of the Interior and are still housed in the files of the Bureau of Land Management in Santa Fe. Many of these documents were listed by Ralph Emerson Twitchell in The Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Vol. I (Cedar Rapids, Iowa: The Torch Press, 1914). Others are in the land grant case files of the Surveyor-General or the Court of Private Land Claims, established in 1891, and are also in the Bureau of Land Management. These three sets of title records were microfilmed by the University of New Mexico Library in 1955.

Official Spanish archives not relating to land remained in the custody of the governor or the secretary of the territory until 1903. Several pleas were made by governors in the 1850's and 1860's for funds to classify, restore and protect the records. Many of them disappeared within

the next fifty years through official carelessness and removal. Some found their way into private collections via documents scouts and autograph hunters. Governors and secretaries removed others, probably for their own perusal, and many of these also came into the possession of private depositories. In 1891, the territorial legislature appropriated funds for the cataloging and translation of the Spanish archives, and Adolph F. Bandelier was given the contract by then governor L. Bradford Prince. Bandelier's notations appear on the margins of some of the documents, but the location of even his index is unknown. With the construction of the new capitol in 1886, the archives were transferred to the secretary of the territory's office in that building. The capitol burned in 1892, but the Spanish and Mexican archives were rescued from the building by attorney-historian Ralph Emerson Twitchell. They were then sent back to the Palace of the Governors until a new capitol was completed in 1900, when they were moved to the secretary's vault in the new building. The Library of Congress soon requested Governor Miguel A. Otero and the New Mexico legislature to transfer them to Washington, and the legislature drafted an act to do so with the stipulation that they would be returned to New Mexico after they had been cleaned and restored. But the federal authorities

refused to accept these stipulations, and on April 3, the Secretary of the Interior ordered Governor Otero to send them to the Library of Congress where they remained until 1924. They were then returned to the state and placed in the custody of the Museum of New Mexico. In 1960, custody was transferred by Archivist of the United States, Dr. Wayne Grover, to the newly organized New Mexico State Records Center and Archives.

Sometime before the transfer to Washington, the Spanish archives were arranged in approximately chronological order, and a small numbered tab was pasted on the margin of the first page of each document, probably by Bandelier. While at the Library of Congress, they were inventoried by Ralph Emerson Twitchell, who used the tab number as the basis for his listing in The Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Vol. II (1914). However, there are gaps in the numbers listed by Twitchell, indicating that some of the archives were not transferred to the Library of Congress, and hence not listed by him. This was borne out by the discovery of several Spanish archives with the missing numbers, but not listed by Twitchell, among the miscellaneous uncalendared papers in the holdings of the Museum of New Mexico when all Museum archives, including private collections containing public records, were transferred to the State Records Center in 1960-1961.

Rolls 1-20 of this microfilm consist of the documents sent to the Library of Congress in 1903 and returned to New Mexico in 1924, except for the printed decrees of 1715-1816. They are calendared in chronological order, identified briefly, and located by the proper frame number. Since Twitchell's listing has been known and used as a location guide for more than fifty years, the numbers used by Twitchell have been collated with this calendar and appear on the right margin opposite the appropriate frame number. Some documents were missed by Twitchell, and hence carry only the frame number. A few documents have disappeared from the collection since the published guide was made, and no record of them appears in the microfilm calendar. The decision to recalendar the documents was made since the Twitchell inventory was only roughly chronological and some errors in dating occurred. A simple calendar was thought to be more useful to researchers than Twitchell's annotations which included copious notes, partial translations and lengthy descriptions of related documents in other collections. However, The Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Vol. II still remains a valuable source of historical data.

Official Spanish archives not listed in the Twitchell inventory, except for official orders and decrees, have been calendared chronologically in Roll 21. These include

several documents, especially from the period of the Pueblo Revolt, which bear the old tab number, but which were not sent to Washington. Included also are the official documents found in the special collections of the Zimmerman Library of the University of New Mexico and in the Archives Division of the State Records Center.

The third category of documents consists of the official orders and decrees of the various administrative agencies of the Spanish government, both in Spain and Mexico, which were transmitted to the governor of New Mexico by the viceroy or the comandante general. The majority of them are printed. Most of those dating from 1715-1816 were sent to the Library of Congress in 1903, where they were mounted in two large volumes before being returned to New Mexico in 1924. A few were noted by Twitchell; most were not. Others were found in the various special collections. The orders and decrees are microfilmed chronologically by transmittal date in Roll 22.

Throughout the microfilm, documents which cover a period of time are listed under the earliest date with the inclusive dates noted. The original spellings have been retained and no attempt has been made to standardize them according to modern usage.

While the archives of Spanish sovereignty reproduced in this microfilm constitute the total collection of Spanish

public records still in New Mexico public custody, they are nevertheless incomplete and often fragmentary. The following depositories are rich in additional documentary materials for the colonial period: Archivo General de Indias, Seville; Archivo General y Público de la Nación, Mexico, especially the Provincias Internas, Inquisition and Historia sections; Biblioteca Nacional, Mexico, Legajo series; Propaganda Fide, Rome, as well as the collections of early documents printed in Spain and Mexico. Many official records are also in the Bancroft Library of the University of California and the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

ROLL NOTES

Roll 1
1621-1693

This roll includes the three documents of 1621, 1636 and 1664 which predate the Pueblo Revolt. Of far greater importance, however, are the journals and other records of events during the Revolt maintained at El Paso del Norte by Governors Otermín, Reneros de Posada and Crusate. No records survive for the years 1690-1691. The roll terminates with events of the reoccupation of New Mexico by Governor Diego de Vargas in 1693. Additional documents for these years are to be found in Miscellaneous Spanish Archives, Roll 21.

Roll 2
1694-1696

The documents in this roll consist primarily of the journals kept by Governor Diego de Vargas in crushing the Pueblo Indian Revolts of 1694 and 1696.

Roll 3
1697-1706

Records of these years cover events from the final months of Vargas' first term, through the administration of Pedro Rodríguez Cubero, the return of Vargas with the title of Marqués de la Nava de Brazinas in 1703, to the middle of Francisco Cuervo y Valdés' tenure. Actions of the cabildo of Santa Fe were important during this period. Judicial proceedings in a number of civil and criminal causes were recorded. Indian relations with the Plains tribes became increasingly evident.

Roll 4
1707-1714

During the administrations of governors Cuervo y Valdés, the Marqués de la Peñuela and Juan Ignacio Flores Mogollón, increased military measures for protection against hostile Indian attack, especially by the Navajos, were apparent in official affairs. Reports appeared from the Villa of Albuquerque, established in 1706.

Roll 5
1715-1722

Campaigns against the Hopi, as well as the Apaches and Navajos, were a primary concern of Acting Governor Felix Martínes who succeeded Flores Mogollón in 1715. Ute and Comanche problems faced Antonio Valverde y Cossio, 1717-1722, as well as the threat of French intrusion into Spanish lands and alliance with the Pawnee. Many documents of this period were concerned with the protection of the civil rights of the Pueblo Indians.

Roll 6
1723-1732

This roll covers the administration of Governor Juan Domingo de Bustamante through the first year of Gervasio Cruzat y Góngora. Records of the residencias of Martínes and Valverde y Cossio were important in 1723-1724. Proceedings and suits against residents for violation of Pueblo Indian rights increased.

Roll 7
1733-1740

Cruzat y Góngora's administration continued to 1736, when he was superseded by Henrique de Olavide y Michelena who served until 1738 when he was replaced by Gaspar Domingo de Mendoza. Records of Cruzat y Góngora's residencia in 1737 comprise a large portion of this roll. A proportionately large number of civil and criminal suits involving Spanish residents were filed.

Roll 8
1741-1755

This roll contains the records maintained from the Mendoza administration through that of Joachín Codallos y Rabal, 1743-1749, the first administration of Tomás Véles Cachupín, 1749-1754, and into the first year of Francisco Antonio Marín del Valle. Attempted conversion of the Navajo, and defense against Apaches and Comanches accounted for a large amount of official record-keeping.

Roll 9
1756-1766

The last years of Marín del Valle's administration are included in this roll, as well as those of interim governor Manuel de Portillo Urrisola, 1760-1762 and the second term of Véles y Cachupín, which began in 1762. Military records are important for 1756-1757. Unfortunately, no records survive for 1758, 1759, 1762 and only one item for 1760. Those for 1761 and 1763-1766 consisted chiefly of judicial cases.

Roll 10
1767-1779

Records of Governor Pedro Fermín de Mendinueta, 1767-1778, were concerned primarily with local affairs until late in 1776, when the amount of correspondence and instructions increased notably with the appointment of Teodoro de Croix as Comandante General of the Provincias Internas. Juan Bautista de Anza's first year reflected the tightening of administration to improve frontier defense.

Roll 11
1780-1787

Throughout Juan Bautista de Anza's term, military affairs continued to take precedence over civil matters in the instructions from Comandante Teodoro de Croix to August, 1783 and his successors Joseph Antonio Rengel and Jacobo Ugarte y Loyola. Documents of 1785-1786 indicated the policies of Viceroy Bernardo de Gálvez who assumed greater viceregal control.

Roll 12
1788-1791

Documents in this roll complete the administration of Anza through the first half of Fernando de la Concha's term. Communications of the governors with Ugarte y Loyola and Pedro de Nava concerning defense against hostile Indians continued to be of major importance, although Viceroy Revilla Gigedo also took an active part in New Mexico official affairs. Of particular importance were the 1790 census reports.

Roll 13
1792-1796

Governor Fernando Chacón replaced Concha in 1794. The number of viceregal documents materially declined with this date, which also coincided with the removal of Viceroy Revilla Gigedo. Proportionately more civil documents are recorded

during these years. Much of the correspondence from Comandante Pedro de Nava consisted of the transmittal of orders and decrees, with some handwritten and a few printed decrees included. Reel 22 should also be checked for the appropriate orders and decrees for this and succeedings rolls.

Roll 14
1797-1802

Most of the archives of these years consist of correspondence between Governor Chacón and Comandante Pedro de Nava, with an absence of viceregal directives. Increased difficulties with both Navajos and Apaches are indicated after 1800.

Roll 15
1803-1805

Military communications between Governor Chacón and Comandante Nemesio Salcedo were frequent due to the Navajo campaign and relations with the Comanches. Joachín Real Alencaster replaced Chacón in the spring of 1805. Greater ecclesiastical jurisdiction began to be exercised by the Bishop of Durango. Various documents concerned the importation of Mexican weavers.

Roll 16
1806-1809

Archives in this roll reflected the concern of Governors Real Alencaster, Alberto Maynez and José Manrrique, as well as Comandante Salcedo, with possible U.S. intrusion due to the Pike expedition and the alliance of French and plains Indians. By late 1808, information reached New Mexico of the overthrow of the Bourbons and the establishment of the Junta Central in Spain.

Roll 17
1810-1814

In spite of the turmoil within the viceroyalty as a result of governmental changes in Spain and Mexico and the Hidalgo-Morelos revolution, a large portion of the documents of these years were concerned with such local matters as vaccination, civil and criminal cases and the usual problem of Anglo-American intrusion and Indian defense. Orders, decrees and instructions were duly transmitted but many were obsolete by the time they reached Santa Fe.

Roll 18
1815-1817

Administrative documents of Governors Alberto Maynez and Pedro María Allande contained a large number of service records of the presidial troops. The most lengthy record was the suit of María Ursula Cháves against former New Mexico

delegate to the Cortes, Pedro Baustista Pino. The increased absolutism of Ferdinand VII was reflected in the transmittal of communications from Mexico.

Roll 19
1818-1819

Navajo campaigns again dominated affairs during the Allande-Facundo Melgares administrations, as well as matters involving the Pueblo Indians. A number of civil suits were filed during these years. Only a few communications from authorities within Mexico were recorded.

Roll 20
1820-1821

This roll contains the records of the final years of Spanish sovereignty. Transmittal of orders, decrees and instructions increased notably, although many of them had already been superseded before they were received by Governor Melgares. The War of Independence officially ended with the Treaty of Córdova, August 24, 1821, but documents covering the conflict continued to be filed in Santa Fe until the end of the year.

Roll 21
MISCELLANEOUS SPANISH ARCHIVES OF NEW MEXICO

The documents in this roll comprise the official archives which were not among those sent to the Library of Congress in 1903, returned to New Mexico in 1924, and listed

by Twitchell in The Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Vol. II. The originals are to be found in the special collections of the Archives Division of the State Records Center and of the Zimmerman Library of the University of New Mexico. Each item is designated by the name of the following special collection in which the original is located:

State Records Center Special Collections
Miscellaneous Spanish Archives of New Mexico
Martin Gardesky Collection
Ralph Emerson Twitchell Papers
Donaciano Vigil Papers
Benjamin M. Read Papers
L. Bradford Prince Papers
María G. Durán Papers
Mrs. James Seligman Papers
Lew. Wallace Papers

Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico
L. Bradford Prince Papers
D'Armand Papers
University of New Mexico Miscellaneous

The Ralph Emerson Twitchell Papers constitute the private collection of Mr. Twitchell, and are not to be confused with the Twitchell listing of the Spanish Archives of New Mexico. Separate donations of the papers of L. Bradford Prince exist both in the State Records Center and in the Zimmerman Library.

Roll 22
ORDERS AND DECREES

The cédulas, orders and decrees are those official documents originating either in Spain or in Mexico which

were transmitted to subordinate authorities throughout the Viceroyalty of New Spain. The majority were printed. Those of this roll include the orders and decrees which were segregated from the other archives at the Library of Congress and mounted in two large volumes, as well as others which remained in the files of The Historical Society of New Mexico at the Museum of New Mexico, and a few found in private collections. Most of the handwritten copies of orders and decrees, and a few printed ones, were not segregated in Washington and were inventoried by Twitchell. These are microfilmed in Rolls 1-20. Although some of those which had been bound were noted by Twitchell, these have been omitted from Rolls 1-20 and are microfilmed only in this roll. For a more coherent study of administration in New Mexico, the documents are arranged by date of publication of the last authority to whom they were sent, even though the publication date may be much later than the date of origin.